

The Commonwealth.

E. E. ALLIARD, - - - Editor.

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HALIFAX ROAD LAW.

Recently the road law has been a subject of earnest discussion by the citizens in almost every part of Halifax county. Many of them do not understand the law, and therefore do not know whether to approve or condemn.

The bad condition of the county roads during the winter and early spring made many of the people dissatisfied with the law, whether the law had anything to do with the bad roads or not. Any change generally produces confusion. When a prosperous merchant builds a larger and handsomer store in order to accommodate his growing business, he finds that there come considerable confusion and annoyance in moving his stock of goods from the old store to the new. When the prosperous farmer buys his neighbor's larger and better farm he finds that it takes some time to get things running as well from the larger farm as they did the year before on the smaller farm. So it is with changes generally. It takes a little time to get things properly adjusted even in a better and larger place and under better and more pleasing circumstances.

Two weeks ago this paper pointed out that in some respects the criticisms against the road law are untimely, because they are not made intelligently. We repeat that the railroads, telegraph and telephone companies pay perhaps nearly one-third of the road tax, and some of those who are criticizing the law are practically made road free by the law itself.

One of the good citizens from the western part of the county told us at the court house a week ago that he was indebted to THE COMMONWEALTH for enlightenment on the road question in this county. He had not looked at the question in its true light.

As we said two weeks ago, we have no purpose under heaven in commending a thorough test of our road law except to promote the best interests of the people of Halifax county.

We beg further to call attention to those who are dissatisfied with the present road law, that it means much to the county to have fifteen or twenty strong, able-bodied men working on the roads all the time instead of lying in jail, sleeping away the time at a heavy expense to the county with not a cent's return.

The convicts are now working the roads, at some cost to the county, to be sure; but this cost is now turning out satisfactory results; namely, making good roads where before they were well nigh impassable.

THE COMMONWEALTH believes that the system of working public roads by taxation is the only true and equitable system; and it does seem reasonable that this people should wait and give the law in Halifax county a fair trial before they clamor for a change.

COL. SMITH'S LETTER.

Elsewhere we print in this issue a letter from Col. A. L. Smith, of Charlotte, which ought to claim the attention of every citizen and taxpayer in Halifax county.

Col. Smith's home was at Scotland Neck during his childhood and youth. He has fine real estate near Scotland Neck now and pays considerable taxes in the county. He, therefore, speaks as a citizen of the county when he declares for double tax for the roads; and he speaks also from observation when he refers to the value of good roads in Mecklenburg county and quotes the prices of farm property, showing that with good roads the value of such property has doubled within a few years.

As Col. Smith well observes in his letter, the greatest drawback to this region of North Carolina is poor roads. Truly Eastern Carolina is a garden spot, and we only need certain and proper developments to reap a great and abundant reward. The establishing of good roads will do much toward bringing about a most improved condition of our agricultural interests.

BAD ROADS AND HEAVY FREIGHTS.

Col. Smith says in his letter this week that one of the greatest drawbacks to this region is bad roads. We agree with him as it applies to this entire region; but Scotland Neck's worst drawback as a town, perhaps, is our exceedingly heavy freight rates.

This paper has pointed out many times the great and enormous freight expenses which the merchants of Scotland Neck pay every year. They could greatly reduce their freight expenses by building a railroad to Roanoke river; and it is the wonder of people away from Scotland Neck that it is not done.

No Gloss Carriage Paint Made

Will wear as long as Devco's. No others as heavy bodied, because Devco's weigh 3 to 8 ounces more to the pint. Sold by E. T. Whitehead & Co.

FOLEY'S HONEY AND TAR

DEMOCRATIC PLAN OF ORGANIZATION.

1. The unit of county organization shall be the voting precincts. In each precinct there shall be an Executive Committee, to consist of five active Democrats, who shall be elected by the Democratic voters at the several precincts in the meeting first called by the County Executive Committee. And said committee so elected shall elect one of its members as chairman who shall preside at all committee meetings.

2. The chairmen of the several precinct committees shall compose the County Executive Committee, which shall meet at the same time and place as the County Convention first held in each election year, and elect a chairman of said County Committee, who need not be a member of the committee and he shall preside at all meetings of said committee, and shall hold his place until his successor shall be elected. A majority of said precinct chairmen, in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum. The County Committee shall likewise appoint a central committee of five, who shall act in its stead when the County Committee is not in session.

3. In case there shall be a failure on the part of any precinct to elect its Executive Committee for a period of thirty days, the County Executive Committee shall appoint said committee from the Democratic voters of said precinct.

4. The members of the Precinct Committee shall elect to any vacancy occurring in said committee.

5. The County Executive Committee shall call all necessary conventions by giving at least ten days' notice by public advertisement in three public places in each precinct, at the court house door, and in any Democratic newspaper that may be published in the county to meet in their respective precincts on a common day therein stated, which said day shall not be less than three days before the meeting of the County Convention, for the purpose of electing their delegates to the County Conventions. Thereupon the meeting so held shall elect their delegates to represent the precincts in the County Convention from the voters of the respective voting precincts, which delegates, or such of them as shall at said meeting, shall vote the full Democratic strength of their respective voting precincts on all questions that may come before said County Conventions. In case no meeting shall be held in any precinct in pursuance of said call, or no election shall be made, the Precinct Executive Committee shall appoint such delegates.

PRIMARIES.

6. At every precinct meeting there shall (before the delegates to the County Convention are elected) be a vote taken for the different candidates for office, whose names may be presented and the delegates shall vote in the County Convention of their respective districts in accordance with this vote; that is to say, each candidate shall receive in the County Convention that proportion of the vote to which the precinct may be entitled which he received in the precinct meeting. The chairman and secretary of the precinct meeting shall certify to the County Convention the vote received by each candidate at the precinct meeting.

7. Each precinct shall be entitled to cast in the County Convention one vote for every twenty-five Democratic votes, and one vote for fractions of thirteen Democratic votes cast by the township at the last preceding gubernatorial election: PROVIDED, that every voting precinct shall be entitled to cast one vote, and each precinct may send as many delegates as it may see fit.

8. The chairmen of the Precinct Committees shall preside at all precinct meetings. In their absence any other member of said committees may preside.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT CONVENTIONS.

1. The several County Conventions shall be entitled to elect to their Senatorial, Judicial and Congressional Conventions one delegate and one alternate for every fifty Democratic votes, and one delegate for fractions over twenty-five Democratic votes cast at the last preceding gubernatorial election in their respective counties, and none but delegates or alternates so elected shall be entitled to a seat in said convention: PROVIDED FURTHER, that in all County Conventions in which delegates shall be selected to attend any State, Congressional, Judicial or other convention a vote shall be taken in accordance with the plan of organization as to the candidates whose names may be presented to such County Convention. The delegates shall be selected from the friends and supporters of each candidate voted for, in proportion to the number of votes he shall receive in such County Convention, and no other instruction shall be given: PROVIDED FURTHER, that when only one candidate is presented and voted for at such County Convention, it shall be lawful to instruct for such candidate.

2. At every County Convention (before delegates to State, Congressional, Judicial, Senatorial or other convention are chosen) there shall be a vote taken for the different candidates for office whose names may be presented, and the delegates shall vote for their respective counties in accordance with this vote; that is to say, each candidate shall receive in the State, Congressional, Judicial, Senatorial or other convention the proportion of the vote to which the county may be entitled which he received in the County Convention. The chairman and secretary of the County Convention shall certify to each convention the vote received by each candidate given: PROVIDED, that where only one candidate is presented it shall be lawful to instruct for him. At all State District Conventions the delegates from the different counties may disregard the vote of their respective counties as to any candidate: PROVIDED, that a two-thirds majority of all his votes from the county consent.

3. The chairman, or in his absence any member of the County, Senatorial, Judicial and Congressional Convention, shall call to order their respective conventions and hold chairmanship thereof until the convention shall elect its chairman.

4. The Executive Committees of the Senatorial, Congressional and Judicial

Districts, respectively, shall, at the call of their respective chairmen, meet at some time and place in their respective districts, and the chairmen of said respective committees shall immediately notify the chairmen of the different County Executive Committees of the said appointment, and the said County Executive Committee shall forthwith call conventions of their respective counties in conformity to said notice to send delegates to said respective District Conventions.

STATE CONVENTIONS.

The State Convention shall be composed of delegates appointed by the several County Conventions. Each county shall be entitled to elect one delegate and one alternate for every one hundred and fifty Democratic votes and one delegate for fractions over seventy-five Democratic votes cast therein at the last preceding gubernatorial election; and none but delegates or alternates so elected shall be entitled to seats in said convention: PROVIDED, that every county shall have at least one vote in said convention.

GENERAL RULES.

1. At all conventions the delegates shall be selected as near as may be from the friends and supporters of the candidates voted for.

2. Such delegates—or alternates of absent delegates—or be present at any Democratic Convention shall be allowed to cast the whole vote to which their precinct or county may be entitled.

3. In all conventions provided for by this system, after a vote is cast, there shall be no change in such vote until the final result of the ballot shall be announced by the chairman of said convention.

4. All Democratic Executive Committees shall have the power to fill any vacancies occurring in their respective bodies.

5. The chairmen of the different County Conventions shall certify the list of delegates and alternates of the different District and State Conventions, and a certified list of said delegates and alternates to the secretary of the State Central Committee.

6. It shall be the duty of the County Committee and its chairman to furnish such information and make such reports to the chairman of the State Committee as he may desire.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on March 17, 1904, the following rule was adopted:

"In all conventions a nomination may be made by any majority, even though it be a fraction of a vote."

F. M. SIMMONS,

Chairman State Democratic Executive Committee.

ALEX. J. FEILD, Secretary.

CONCHO FACES.

Correspondence to The Commonwealth.

CONCHO, N. C., May 10, 1904.

Miss Allen Quincey, of Enfield, spent the night with her brother, Mr. John F. Quincey, Thursday. She was on her way to her uncle's at Mount Gilead.

Mr. N. C. Hines went to Richmond, Va., last Wednesday.

Messrs. N. F. Brown, T. H. Connell and J. F. Council went to Williamsport Saturday to stand examination for the Rural Route No. 2.

Mr. W. L. Sherrod, of Hamilton, was in town last week.

Mr. E. E. McGee, of Emporia, Va., is here as relieving operator Hine this week.

Preaching at Concho Primitive Baptist church Sunday next.

Mrs. F. M. Harrell returned from Tarboro Saturday.

Mr. J. L. Hines went to Gold Point Friday.

Mr. J. F. Quincey went to Hamilton fishing last week.

Messrs. John F. Quincey and Robert Council left for Hamilton this morning to go fishing.

Misses Bessie and Charlotte Casper spent Sunday in Parnesse with their brother, Mr. J. M. Casper.

Mr. Z. M. Whitehurst and Miss Mary Long left this morning for Morgan, N. C.

Mr. J. T. Casper and Miss Maggie Everett, of Hamilton, were in town Sunday.

Messrs. John and George Council spent Sunday on the river with Messrs. Robert and Walter Crisp.

Mr. S. L. Long, of Pinners Point, Va., was in town to-day.

Mr. John Cloman, of Pinners Point, Va., was in town last week.

RINGWOOD NOTES.

Correspondence to The Commonwealth.

RINGWOOD, N. C., May 7, 1904.

A much needed rain is now falling. It has been very dry and oats and wheat have failed for want of moisture.

Tobacco plants are ready to be set, which will go on lively now. The acreage will be decreased half. More cotton is being planted and it is hoped cereals will be increased. Hauling Northern hay, spoiled corn, etc., into a community like this is bad.

Mr. C. A. Williams has a pen of the finest improved stock hogs—most of them pretty as a picture.

There is considerable fruit notwithstanding the cold spring. Roads are bad—full of holes, and need working with the tax money paid, or some other money, at less than two dollars a day for overseers and one dollar or seventy-five cents for hands—but favoritism, you know.

Mr. Dunn's letter seems fair and timely. If we are going to have a free expression from the voters let all speak out and not a few in the primaries say who shall hold the offices.

HOW'S THIS?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last fifteen years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions, and financially able to carry out any obligations made by him.

WALDING, KINNAN & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75c. per bottle. Sold by all druggists.

Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

REPUBLICANS ORGANIZE.

The Republican county convention was held in Halifax Tuesday of last week. Delegates were elected to the State convention and to the Congressional convention, but no county ticket was nominated.

The convention instructed the delegates to the Congressional convention to cast their votes for Mr. J. C. Meekins, of Scotland Neck, for Congress.

Mr. E. T. Clark, who had been county chairman for some years, announced that he was done with the Republican party. Mr. Clark's announcement was not made in the convention, but later, after the executive committee had elected Mr. R. J. Lewis as county chairman.

SAYS DOUBLE THE ROAD TAX.

Editor THE COMMONWEALTH:

I noticed in the last issue of your paper some objection to the present road system in Halifax county. As you noted in your editorial, it would be better for the people to give the system a fair trial before condemning it. Working roads by taxation has certainly proven the best method, as exemplified by our county of Mecklenburg, which has over one hundred miles of macadamized roads, built at a cost of about \$2,300 to the mile. What would the citizens of Halifax think of this outlay? Being a taxpayer in Halifax, I would not object to the road tax being doubled, for here we see what good roads mean to any community.

They have more than doubled the value of property in this county. Before we had good roads farming property for four, five to six miles from Charlotte could be purchased for eight, ten and twelve dollars per acre; now it will bring from twenty to forty. One of your greatest drawbacks is bad roads, which should not be the case where they can be made at such small cost. Instead of contracting, let them double the work now now being done, and they will never regret it.

A. L. SMITH.

Charlotte, N. C., May 3, 1904.

SCOTT'S EMULSION

Scott's Emulsion is the means of life and of the enjoyment of life of thousands of men, women and children.

To the men Scott's Emulsion gives the flesh and strength so necessary for the cure of consumption and the repairing of body losses from any wasting disease.

For women Scott's Emulsion does this and more. It is a most sustaining food and tonic for the special trials that women have to bear.

To children Scott's Emulsion gives food and strength for growth of flesh and bone and blood. For pale girls, for thin and sickly boys Scott's Emulsion is a great help.

Send for free sample. SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists, 409-415 Pearl Street, New York. 50c. and \$1.00; all druggists.

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Signature of J. C. Watson



A POPULAR TRADING PLACE.

BECAUSE We make your buying easy—comfortable—satisfactory.
BECAUSE Our prices are the PROVEN lowest in the city.
BECAUSE The stock to select from is the newest, brightest and largest.
BECAUSE We appreciate your patronage—work hard to merit it.

Specials for This Week:

Polaris Freezers.....
Refrigerators.....
Ice Picks and.....
Crackers.....
Screens, Doors
and Windows.
Screen Wire Ham-
mocks.....
Summer Lap Robes.



Here's the great Buck's Stove you hear so much talk about. Has WHITE ENAMEL lining to oven doors and racks.....

Something New:

See our "Corrugated Cream Separator.".....
No Dairy or Milk Trough Necessary
When you have our Separator. You get 95 per cent. pure cream in a few hours. It is simple, easily cleaned and operated.

FUTRELL-HARDY

HARDWARE COMPANY,

"The Hardware Hustlers,"

Scotland Neck,

North Carolina.

Report of Town Treasurer.

For the Year Ending April 30, 1904.

Town of SCOTLAND NECK in account with JNO. P. FUTRELL, Treas.	
1904.	
May 1. To cash Lamp Lighters	\$165 90
G. H. Johnson, services	297 00
Board of Town Mule	38 43
Street work and Ditching	252 74
E. E. Hilliard, printing	23 15
Oil	119 57
Printing and advertising bonds	57 62
Registrars and poll holders	16 63
G. H. Johnson, cleaning privies	288 75
Pittman, for horse and wagon	8 75
John House, census	16 01
S. B. Kitchin, lumber (1902)	14 61
J. Bryan Grimes, register's book	75
John Smith, sinking well	8 00
Dr. Shields, tax list	50 00
Futrell-Hardy Hardware Co., hardware	16 36
Dr. R. M. Johnson, rent mayor's office	8 00
E. E. Hilliard, advertising	1 65
Dr. Shields, docket	2 41
Robt. Pittman, balliff	1 00
J. R. Askew & Bro., lumber	10 03
S. B. Kitchin, lumber	4 29
J. E. Condry, lumber (1902)	6 40
W. A. Branley, work (1902)	6 15
E. T. Whitehead & Co., account (1901)	16 75
John Mills, surveying	6 50
Futrell-Hardy Hardware Co., sewer pipe	157 59
" " " hardware	17 64
W. R. Bristol, special police	5 00
Futrell-Hardy Hardware Co., hardware	17 84
Morrisett Bros., mattress	1 65
J. R. Askew & Bro., lumber	7 10
S. B. Kitchin, lumber	4 94
Freight on car of coal	75 38
To Balance	\$1,722 76
	2,399 27

1903. CREDITS.	
May 20. By cash From former treasurer (exclusive of liquor tax, \$600, which went to public schools)	\$ 240 26
G. H. Johnson, privilege tax for 1903-'04	255 00
Sale of town mule	175 00
Interest on note given in payment of mule	4 88
G. H. Johnson, from levy 1903	8,446 89
By Balance	\$4,122 03
Examined and approved.	A. L. PURRINGTON, A. McDOWELL, Auditing Committee.

May 9, 1904.	
By Balance	\$3,065 27
Examined and Approved,	A. L. PURRINGTON, A. McDOWELL, Auditing Committee.

ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT

In account with JOHN P. FUTRELL, Treasurer:	
1903.	
July 24. By Sale of Bonds	10,037 60
Aug. 6. To Cash W. J. A. Dunn, Attorney Fees	\$ 50 00
Dec. 23. Mrs. M. F. Kitchin for lot	400 00
1904.	
Feb. 3. To Cash on engine and boiler	1,933 97
Standard Electric Co. on contract	3,313 34
Work on power plant	244 33
A. McDowell investigating electric light plant	8 00
S. B. Kitchin lumber	91 21
Futrell-Hardy Hardware Co. material	181 48
Standard Electric Co. on contract	760 00
May 1. To Balance	3,065 27
By Balance	\$3,065 27
Examined and Approved,	A. L. PURRINGTON, A. McDOWELL, Auditing Committee.

May 9, 1904.	
By Balance	\$3,065 27
Examined and Approved,	A. L. PURRINGTON, A. McDOWELL, Auditing Committee.

A Few Nice Horses Just Received!

One Fine Driver, Lady-broke Combination Horse. Big lot of Spring Harness. Something nice.

PRINCE & COMPANY,

Scotland Neck,

North Carolina.

TAYLOR,

—THE—

PIONEER GROCER

Having been the first one

to open a FIRST CLASS

Grocery Store in Scotland

Neck, and having for eight

years studied the wants of

the trade, we feel that we

should be in a position to

know better than any one

with less experience, just the

kind of goods the people

want. GIVE US A CALL.

Satisfaction GUARANTEED

Headquarters FOR FIRST CLASS

GROCERIES.

O. K. TAYLOR.

Scotland Neck, N. C.